



State of Utah

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cc: Lynn

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March 5, 2009

Mr. Paul Baker
Minerals Program Manager
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Subject: Goldstrike Mine Closure

Dear Mr. Baker:

The Ground Water Protection Section of the Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) has reviewed our files for the USMX Goldstrike Mine. We also reviewed the water quality data that DOGM has provided to us since 1999. We note that the leach pad effluent volumes have decreased considerably since 1999, and levels of nitrate and total dissolved solids are slowly decreasing as well.

DWQ does not see any reason not to convert to a subsurface drain system. There is no viable threat to groundwater aquifers at or near the site, and permanently removing access to the water by people and animals is appropriate.

I inquired with DWQ's septic system team. Because the flow volume is less than 5,000 gallons per day, DWQ design approval will not be necessary.

Good luck with the final closure of the property. Call me at 801-538-9170 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ed Hickey, P.G.
Ground Water Protection Section

EPH

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

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